

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 13-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13-14 are amended; and Claims 15 is newly added by the present amendment. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is added.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Paul et al. (U.S. Patent 6,052,709, herein Paul) in view of He et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0182383, hereinafter He); and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over He in view of Kitaura et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0091569, herein Kitaura).

In response to the above noted rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 13 and 14, and new independent Claim 15, recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a mobile communication terminal that is configured to receive mail from a mail server, and acquire and store detection conditions data including a letter string from a detection conditions distribution server. The mobile communication terminal then extracts received mail when a condition, in which the mail includes a letter string conforming to the letter string included in the detection condition data, is satisfied. Independent Claim 1 is further amended to specify that the mobile communication terminal, in part, comprises:

a mail storage unit configured to store information indicating whether the mail has been extracted by the detection means and ***detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted***; and

¹ E.g., specification at least at Figs. 1 and 4; new Claim 15 recites features similar to those recited in amended Claim 1, but is drafted to avoid interpretation under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph.

detected mail notification processing means for sending information that the mail has been extracted by the detection means and ***the detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted*** to a detected mail notification receiving server.

Amended independent Claims 13-14, as well as new independent Claim 15, recite features similar to those noted above. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1 and 13-15. More specifically, Claims 13-14 recite features directed to receiving the information indicating a category of the mail extracted at the mobile communication terminal.

As described, for example, at pp. 65-66 and Figs. 3-4 of the specification, the mobile communication terminal is configured to store information defining a category (e.g., adult, advertisement, violence, etc.) of a mail that has been extracted, and this data may be reported to either the detection conditions distribution server and/or the detected mail notification server for subsequent processing and analysis.

In rejecting Claim 1, the Office Action asserts that Paul teaches all the features of Claim 1 with the exception of “sending the detected mail information to the detected mail notification receiving server.” In an attempt to remedy this deficiency, the Official Action relies on He and states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references to arrive at Applicants’ claims. In response to this rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 13-15 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Paul describes creating one or more spam probe e-mail addresses, which are planted at various sites to ensure their inclusion on large scale spam mailing lists. Based on the unsolicited spam e-mail received, the system generates an alert signal which is broadcast to various system components and used to filter e-mail traffic.²

² Paul, Abstract.

As admitted in the Office Action, Paul fails to disclose “sending the detected mail information to the detected mail notification receiving server,” and therefore fails to teach “sending information that the mail has been extracted by the detection means and *the detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted* to a detected mail notification receiving server,” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Paul, however, also fails to teach or suggest storing “*detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted*,” which is also a feature required by amended Claim 1.

In rejecting Claim 1, the Office Action relies on col. 7, ll. 1-8 of Paul, asserting that the reference describes that “all detected mails are stored at a special folder in the user’s in-box.” More particularly, this cited portion of Paul describes that “JUNK” messages may be modified to indicate to the user that the messages are unsolicited, for example, by automatically inserting the word “JUNK” at the beginning of the message’s “SUBJECT” header field, by displaying the message in a distinctive color in the user’s in-box, by inserting the messages in a special folder in the user’s in-box, or by other suitable means.

Thus, Paul describes that filtered messages may be handled differently by a user’s in-box, but the system does not identify a *category* (e.g., advertisement, adult, violence, etc.) of the mail that has been filtered. Instead, Paul merely handles the filtered messages differently so that they may be identified as “JUNK,” but does not store any data indicating the category of the filtered message.

Paul, therefore, fails to teach or suggest a mobile communication terminal that stores “information indicating whether the mail has been extracted by the detection means and *detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted*” and “send[s] information that the mail has been extracted by the detection means and *the*

detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted to a detected mail notification receiving server,” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

He is directed to an enterprise electronic mail filtering and notification system whose purpose is to provide a web and network based method of locating high priority electronic mail messages and alerting the intended recipients of the existence of the messages.³ The system includes a web server where a user registers his e-mail address and selects a criteria for screening e-mails from a mailbox on the user’s e-mail server. When important e-mail messages are located, the user will be notified by the most convenient means as determined by the user.

He, however, fails to teach or suggest a mobile communication terminal that stores “information indicating whether the mail has been extracted by the detection means and ***detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted***” and “send[s] information that the mail has been extracted by the detection means and ***the detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted*** to a detected mail notification receiving server,” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

As described at paragraph [0031] of He, an e-mail detection scanner 6 is implemented as an endless software group running through each user’s account information, as contained in the system database 9. The e-mail detection scanner 6 cross references user account information with the e-mail server to check whether or not there are any messages in the user’s mailbox, and if a message is found, it is transported via the universal mailbox access interface to the system database 9 for comparison with the user’s prioritization criteria filter. If the message passes a criteria set by the user, a data packet is released to a notification means 7 for subsequent distribution to the user.

³ He, Abstract.

Thus, He is merely directed to filtering messages in an e-mail server, and sending messages that match certain criteria directly to a user via a predetermined method. At no point does He teach or suggest that information indicating a *category* (e.g., advertisement, adult, violence, etc.) of a mail that has been extracted is stored. He may describe that e-mail may be filtered using various criteria, as described at paragraph [0035], but He does not disclose that *detection result information indicating a category of a mail that has been extracted*, is stored as recited in amended Claim 1.

Moreover, paragraphs [0031] and [0040] of He, cited in the Office Action, describe that the e-mail itself may be filtered based on various parameters, but fails to teach that a category of a filtered mail is sent to a detected mail notification server, as claimed. Instead, these cited portions of He describe that an e-mail may be filtered, and that various parameters may be set for such a filtering operation. Such processes are not the same as “sending information that the mail has been extracted and *the detection result information indicating a category of the mail that has been extracted* to a detected mail notification receiving server,” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 (and Claims 2-11 which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claims 13-15 patentably define over Paul and He.

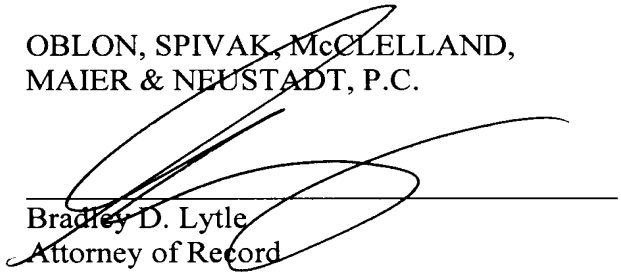
Regarding the rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over He in view of Kitaura. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 14 is patentable over He for at least the reasons noted above, and Kitaura fails to remedy the above noted deficiencies of He.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-11 and 13-15 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)
ATH/rac

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959

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